

# Exercise Evaluation Report

## Exercise Arrowsmith

**Location:** Arrowsmith Station, Hakatere Heron Road

**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

**Report version:** Draft

**Evaluator(s):** *David Dittmer, Senior Ranger Search & Rescue & Recreation, Aoraki Mt Cook National Park*

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## **Executive Summary**

Arrowsmith Search and Rescue Exercise has been developed as a multi-agency skills assessment and training Rogaine format by the Canterbury Police Region and has proven to be a very successful concept.

A large group of multi-agency personnel were involved in setting up and participating came from Land Search and Rescue Groups, Land SAR Dogs, Coastguard, NZ Police, Amateur Radio Emergency Corp and Arrowsmith Station.

All personnel involved were tested in a realistic field setting and received evaluations of their demonstrated skills and achieved learnings and realistic training on this occasion in a climatic environment spanning four seasons.

All objectives set out were achieved at an acceptable level

Some recommendations have been made around training and equipment which will require planning and investment of time and resources.

The Canterbury Police Search and Rescue Leadership and SAR Squads have organised and co-ordinated a well organised and effective skills assessment and training exercise.

# 1. Recommendations

The main group of objectives were achieved during the Arrowsmith Rogaine SAREX.

- Encourage Land SAR Groups to have Team Leaders within their personnel participate in Land SAR Team Leadership training. It was evident that leadership could have been more effective in some participating teams.
- Land SAR Groups based on field experience at this exercise should re-evaluate the suitability of some of their clothing and outer shell weatherproof layers. Regionally consider an initiative of a regional bulk purchase of top-quality weatherproof jackets and over trousers for Land SAR Groups.
- Continue the SAR Track training program through-out Canterbury, the benefits of this training were evident during this SAREX with the seam-less application of this software.
- Continue the Rogaine skills SAREX's. This is a very effective way of searchers achieving competency evaluations and additionally having the opportunity of being exposed to new ideas and concepts – for example “Wander Track” and the “Coast Guard Water Challenge”

## 2. Introduction

The Canterbury Police District SAREX is the major search and rescue training event for the 2019-2020 calendar year and includes partner agencies in a Search and Rescue (SAR) environment.

The Canterbury Police District SAR Coordinator has the responsibility for the coordination and training of the Canterbury District SAR squads and liaison with partner agencies in training opportunities to maintain capability

Canterbury includes expansive mountainous terrain from Lewis Pass in the north, Arthurs Pass National Park and basin, Rakia, Hakatere and Mackenzie Basins south to Aoraki Mt Cook National Park. Significant braided river systems flow eastwards to expansive coastal regions and Banks peninsular. Recreational pursuits across a range of activities are undertaken in this terrain, incidents involving people with insufficient experience or preparation do lead to serious situations and at times fatal outcomes.

Operation Arrowsmith was planned as a two day Rogaining style format run over a 24 hour period across terrain search and rescue personnel would expect to operate in. Part of the plan to have Rogaine stations based on the Land Search and Rescue field competencies which both operational and probationary Land SAR members from Land SAR groups across Canterbury could be assessed against.

Participating teams of 3 or 4 people with a nominated leader must complete the exercise, equipped for the duration of the exercise as per the Land SAR Field Guide and be assessed at each task and if time permitted be given some feedback following the task.

Rules covering the Rogaine competition were provided at the Saturday morning registration with non-compliance with the rules incurring point's deductions and a breach of safety rules could lead to disqualification. A compulsory continuous rest period of 6 hours must be taken and teams were advised of arrangements if too fatigued to drive home post event.

Management personnel were required to coordinate the exercise and with the running of some stations. SARTrack software being used by the Incident Management Team for communications and team coordination tracking.

## 3. Background

Exercise Arrowsmith Rogaine

### 3.1 Background to the Exercise

The Rogaine style SAREX has been established as a sound format to enhance inter-group operating capabilities of LandSAR groups in the Canterbury Police Region and set a baseline for field team performance assessed on the Land SAR field competencies.

### 3.2 Dates, location, organising agency(s), key people

Date: - 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

Location: - Arrowsmith Station, at Lake Heron, on Hakatere Heron Road, Hakatere Basin, Canterbury.

Organising Agencies: - NZ Police SAR Squads, LandSAR Canterbury, LandSAR Search Dogs, Coastguard Christchurch, Amateur Radio Emergency Corps (AREC)

Key People: - Sgt Phil Simmonds, Snr Sgt Ants Callon, Inspector Dave Gaskin, Sgt Matt Wheble, Snr Const. Paul Beaver, Darren Galbraith, Carl McOnie, Rae Wakefield-Jones, Kelly Hoskin, Jeff Lean, Dr Dick Price, Steve Davis

### 3.3 Participating organisations

NZ Police Canterbury SAR Squad

NZ Police South Canterbury SAR Squad

Coast Guard Christchurch

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Canterbury

LandSAR Dogs

Land SAR Groups      Methven x 2 teams

Christchurch x 2 teams

Ellesmere x 2 teams

Geraldine x 1 team

Hurunui x 1 team

Oxford x 3 teams

Rakia x 1 team

Aoraki Mt Cook ACR/ MACSAR

Arrowsmith Station

Land SAR NZ Management & Field Officer

NZ Police SAR Headquarters

NZ SAR Secretariat

### 3.4 Exercise aim

To provide multi-agency search and rescue training in an operational environment with field competency assessment and command and control by an Incident Management Team

### 3.5 Exercise objectives

Activate the IMT at the required level for the operation

Utilize SARTrack in the IMT to monitor participating team's progress and to keep a log of key elements.

Promote leadership and teamwork within SAR teams

To assess LandSAR field teams in SAR KPI's outlined in the LandSAR field competencies

Train in conditions that will simulate a realistic operational environment

Assess how fatigue and psychological pressure affect the operational effectiveness of the teams.

### 3.6 Exercise Scenario

The SAREX consisted of a 24 hour Rogaine style event. During the 24 hour period the 13 teams that participated were tasked to complete as many of the 12 skill stations, 4 being compulsory to attend. These stations were based on the LandSAR field competencies.

Positioning of the skill stations was generally in a broad rectangular area with navigation targets placed inside this area providing participants an option of completing these in down time or while transiting from one station to another. The river crossing station being significantly outside the area, teams were provided a transport shuttle to that location.

The concept at each station was to assess the field teams and provide feedback so they can in their group training throughout the year address any shortcomings. They will also have an idea how they compare against other teams with the district.

A compulsory 6 hour rest period from 23:00 hours Saturday must be taken by all teams, this could optionally be taken at any time with operations not programmed to recommence until 05:00 hours Sunday thus providing skill station staff a break. Station task times were generally 30 minutes in duration and some skill stations capable of taking 2 teams at a time, this allowing more time to transit between stations.

An Incident Management team to be established to exercise command and control during the SAREX with an AREC group managing all radio communications, utilizing SAR Track to record information and team's station booking status and locations.

## 4. Evaluation Methodology

### 4.1 The agreed outcomes of the evaluation activity

A report outlining observations of the Rogaine SAREX in relation to the stated objectives with focus on the benefit for field team personnel, and recommendations on those observations

### 4.2 Evaluation scope

Observation of the Incident Management Team at the ICP, how they functioned and managed the Rogaine operation, management of communications and achieve the objectives set for the exercise.

### 4.3 Aspects of the exercise observed, what was not observed

#### Observed

- The Incident Management Team and exercise coordination and control
- Communications AREC unit
- Communications between SAR IMT and Field Teams
- A selection of Rogaine base sites
- Exercise start briefing and de-brief
- Medical plan in action

#### Not Observed

- Some of the Rogaine base sites

### 4.4 The process followed in preparing and submitting the report

Spoke with Sgt Phil Simmonds several months prior to the SAREX; he forwarded me the relevant documents including the exercise instruction.

Attended the SAREX from initial setup Friday evening prior to activation on Saturday morning through to the conclusion.

Attended the SAREX group hot debrief immediately at the conclusion and awards presentation

### 4.5 Other information

A post SAREX Survey being sent out to all participants to obtain wider feedback



## 5. Findings

### Exercise Planning

The Rogaine SAREX had been developed based on previous exercises and planning as led by Sgt Phil Simmonds and colleagues over several months prior. A written exercise directive detailed the intent and expected outcomes of the SAREX.

An exercise Invitation was circulated to all SAR Groups in the Canterbury police district providing information about the SAREX, including composition of teams, assessment, IMT management and suggested training prior to the event and location.

### Exercise Conduct

The Rogaine SAREX was conducted well from the full briefing outlining the rules with an emphasis on safety with the participants being briefed on No Duff for real situations.

From mid-morning Saturday, the first operational period field teams worked in fine warm conditions, however after 15:00 hours the weather changed with a strong southerly bringing steady rain and a dramatic temperature drop. One team called in a No Duff at 16:23 for a member suffering from the cold. The medical response having an experienced doctor in the IMT was well covered with the cold team member being assessed and treated promptly.

The southerly change bringing snow to low levels was sufficiently severe enough for consideration by the IMT to bring in all teams from the field overnight, an updated forecast was obtained with a clearance of the southerly front near midnight.

Later that evening another team was brought in from the field, along with a member of the medical scenario base, all being very wet and cold for medical assessment.

Operations ceased at 23:00 with all field teams camped up.

The second operational period on Sunday morning commenced 05:00 in clear cold conditions with all remaining field teams operating in a push to complete as many Rogaine bases prior to the SAREX end time of 11:00.

Team management and location tracking and allocation of booked bases was handled well with SAR Track being the prime tool for message handling and tracking of 13 teams by the Incident Management Team. Rotation of personnel covering the IMT positions was managed well considering the 24-hour span of the exercise operation.

## 6. Conclusions

This Rogaine SAREX was well planned and organised with skills stations spaced realistically apart to be achievable. The Aim and Objectives of this SAREX were achieved and met.

A sound health and safety emphasis from the briefing to managing hypothermia issues mid exercise was evident. This was demonstrated with proactive management of field personnel who were brought in very cold during the evening and received medical assessment.

The IMT worked well together, a few the members had not worked together before, however with sound briefing gelled as a team and engaged with SAR Track and effectively managed the SAREX base bookings well. New members were mentored and achieved operational experience using SAR Track with proactive coaching during the exercise.

Communications were managed well by the AREC team for the whole exercise utilising the remote communications bus and linked into SAR Track effectively. Message log management was maintained with assigning a specific input operator.

Learnings from previous Rogaine SAREX'S had been implemented, an example of enabling some key skills stations being able to take 2 teams at a time which minimised bottlenecks and having all skill stations working to the same time frame.

Opportunities to observe skill stations illustrated the professionalism of participating teams and clearly demonstrated the value of this style of SAREX to enable searchers to demonstrate and practise a wide range of search and rescue skills.

## 7. Appendix

### Key Performance Indicators

KPI	Achieved?	Comments
Activate the IMT at the required level for the operation	Achieved	The Incident Management Team was staffed and operated successfully throughout the operation with members being rotated to manage fatigue and provide experience for new IMT participants.
Utilize SARTrack in the IMT to monitor participating team's	Achieved	SARTrack was successfully used to monitor team progress and being networked with the communications unit, all transmissions were logged covering base bookings, etc.
Promote leadership and teamwork within SAR teams	Partially Achieved	Some teams achieved near completion of all bases and achieved substantial points through effective leadership and team work. Whereas several teams struggled in the same environment and did not demonstrate the same team commitment.
To assess LandSAR field teams in SAR KPI's outlined in the LandSAR field competencies	Achieved	All teams were assessed at each skills base with four being compulsory, First Aid, River crossing, Pack check and Overnight Rest. Most teams received feedback from the skill's base assessors at the scenario conclusion.
Train in conditions that will simulate a realistic operational environment	Achieved	The Arrowsmith station terrain spanned from intermediate alpine to valley basin floor and coupled with the strong southerly weather change provided a very realistic operational environment.
Assess how fatigue and psychological pressure affect the operational effectiveness of the teams	Achieved	Most participating teams managed their well-being effectively considering the timeframe of the SAREX along with a substantial southerly weather event late Saturday. A few teams should reflect after the event and review their coping strategies when working under pressure.

## **Feed Back from Participants**

A survey monkey questionnaire was sent to all participants and included all the administration and station staffing people involved.

There was consistent positive feedback about the structure, venue, station selection and management of the SAR Ex.

We asked on a preference for the next District SAR Ex 2/3 have opted for another Rogaine style SAR Ex.

Other points suggested improvements that could be made to the booking system, having all stations working from a single scenario and having shelter available at the stations.

These comments will be collated and where possible incorporated into the next District SAR Ex.

The complete survey monkey responses are attached.



## Canterbury District Land SAREX 2020 - Exercise Arrowsmith RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS

Welcome to the 2020 Canterbury SAREX, this year a Rogaine style event will take place, the majority of which will occur within Arrowsmith and Clent Hills Stations.

1. Teams **do not** require a non-competing driver. In saying that any participants who feel they are too fatigued to drive home following the exercise, must bring this to the attention of the organisers (NZ POLICE) and arrangements will be made for them to either stay in Arrowsmith Station or a driver will be made available to deliver them to their home. Anyone in this position will need to communicate with the Police ICP staff.
2. All teams must consist of three to four people. The team must designate one person as the team leader (they must remain the leader throughout the competition). If anyone in a four person team has a member withdraw from the SAR EX for any reason, the remaining 3 person team members can continue with the SAR EX. Regardless all teams must finish with a minimum of three people.
3. Teams must comply with all rules and directions from organisers and signs. Teams that fail to do so will face point deductions. Intentional rule breaches will result in disqualification.
4. Individuals and teams must carry what they would be expected to carry on a SAR operation (see page 18/19 of the LandSAR field guide for details. Teams will be in the field for the night (and will be involved with the exercise for a portion of it and must carry suitable shelter, clothing, food and water.

### Exercise Layout

5. The event includes 12 stations. Most of the stations are based on competencies found in the LandSAR operational and probationary field competencies documents.
6. All stations (except the rest area) will be awarded points. There are a total of 1000 points available to teams. Any team that achieves over 750 points (75%) will receive a gold award, teams that achieve between 600 and 749 points (60-74%) will receive a silver award. Teams achieving below 600 points (59%) will receive a bronze award.
7. The time frames below is the MAXIMUM time that you will have to complete your task once you have been given you briefing by the station coordinator. This does not include additional time that may be used for a quick de-brief.

STATION	TIMEFRAME	POINTS
Observation	30 min	50
Search Methods	30 min	100
HF Radio	no limit	50
Team building	30 min	100
Navigation	no limit	200
Pack Inspection ( <i>compulsory</i> )	30 min	50
Clue Processing	30 min	100
River Crossing ( <i>compulsory</i> )	30 min	100
Rest Area ( <i>compulsory</i> )	6 hrs	0
Quiz	ready to hand in by 0800hrs	50
First Aid ( <i>compulsory</i> )	30 min	100
Search Dogs	30 min	50
Wandersearch	30 min	50

8. Four of the stations are compulsory for all teams. They are PACK INSPECTION, RIVER CROSSING, FIRST AID and REST stations. The other stations are not compulsory but teams should aim to complete as many as possible. The course is designed to be achievable.
9. All stations once visited by a team will be considered completed, with the exception of the NAVIGATION task. Participants can complete any part or portion of the NAVIGATION course as they travel between any other activities. There is no requirement to book in for the NAVIGATION task and this task will remain unmanned throughout the exercise. The NAVIGATION clue sheet is included with the competition pack and needs to be completed and handed in on at the completion of the exercise.
10. Previously there have been problems at the start of the event booking stations, to alleviate this, all teams must complete **a short fitness walk** to a prominent feature and immediately afterwards attend the Pack Inspection station. There is no need to book into the pack Inspection Station as there will be sufficient people there to process numerous teams.
11. Teams must travel from the briefing location and follow the assigned route to the check point and then to the Pack Inspection station. The dedicated route is marked on the attached map, no deviation from this route is to occur and packs must be carried. Once the pack inspection is completed then teams may book into their next station.

## REST STATION / AREA

12. There is no designated rest area for the exercise, teams can take their Rest Stop where they want (within the exercise boundaries and 100 meters off/away from any

formed track or road), however it must incorporate the timeframe of 2300hrs 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 0500hrs Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Teams must radio the start of their rest stop, giving the Grid Reference where they are staying and must remain there for the 6 hours. Teams must remain at their rest location unless an emergency arises, in which case they must radio the ICP. Teams may take any other short rest breaks that they require throughout the event when and where they like.

13. All stations will be closed from 2300hrs to 0500hrs and therefore no bookings will be taken during this time.

## Logistics

14. Every competitor will be issued with a 24hr ration pack (back country). Any other food must be supplied and carried by the team. A BBQ lunch will be provided at the Woolshed on Sunday. Water will be available at GR-----, and GR-----.
15. The standard advice from DoC is to **BOIL** all water taken from any river source prior to drinking.
16. Toilet facilities are available at -----, and on the 4WD track vicinity GR-----
17. These are also indicated on the attached competition map.
18. Each team must ensure they have two VHF with them. The HF radio and batteries required for the HF radio station will be provided at the HF radio station.
19. Teams must check that their equipment is in working condition before beginning the competition.

## Communications

20. Teams will be given a communications plan as part of the competition pack. All teams must complete VHF radio calls at the following times:

when entering the competition area

when arriving at a station

when leaving a station

when leaving the competition area

21. Once every two hours if one of the above four events has not occurred.

22. Teams must also answer radio calls from the ICP at any point during the competition.

23. There one VHF radio channel for the exercise area. There is NO cell phone reception within the exercise area.

## BOOKING STATIONS

24. Teams can only book one station at a time. Once they have checked into their station they can book their next station. Bookings are not essential and if a team is passing a free station then they can check into that station by contacting the station supervisor.

Teams will be penalised 10 points for:

Failing to arrive at a booked station on time.

25. Teams must give an ETA for their arrival at a station when booking. If they fail to arrive on time they will forfeit their booking if another team is waiting.
26. The procedure for booking a station is to call the ICP, "SAR Base" and request to book a station.
27. Some stations can take more than one team at a time so it will pay to check with SAR Base if there is bookings available.
28. When arriving at a station, participants must go to the 14 digit location provided in the briefing pack, the station itself will be within 50meters of this point. The team leader must then call the station supervisor to advise they are at the arrival point for that station, and then WAIT until a station supervisor comes to get them.
29. At the conclusion of a station task teams will not be advised of their score until the conclusion of the competition. Teams will be posted a feedback sheet for each station in the days after the exercise. A quick debrief **WILL** occur at the conclusion of each station, this will cover the following:
  - What went well
  - Any area for improvement
  - Anything identified that may cause continual deduction of points (ie team members not wearing High Visibility clothing)

### **General Conditions of Participation**

30. All team members must wear High Visibility clothing (and be identifiable as part of LandSAR/NZ Police) at all times and remain with the exercise area.
31. Teams must be back at the ICP within 24 hours following the actual start time. Teams that have not returned will lose 5 points for every minute they are late for the first hour (ie 20 minutes late = 100 points lost, 60 minutes late = 300 points lost), If teams have not returned by 12100hrs on Sunday then they must radio there location to be uplifted. Safety Staff will advise them where their pick up point is and this will result in half of the teams remaining points being deducted.
32. Teams must not interfere with any signs, markings, navigation stations etc. Absolutely no litter is permitted. There is a total fire ban and therefore no open fires of any type are permitted. Please ensure a suitable area is cleared prior to lighting any gas, solid or liquid fuel cookers.
33. The only 1 main road, the Hakatere Heron Road, must not be used for travel. If walking parallel to the road you must be at least 20meters away from the edge as a



safety measure. All team members are reminded that the roads are **OPEN** to all other traffic and they should only be crossed once both ways have been checked. Teams must cross together, ie as one bunch and cannot be spread out over 100m. Teams found not complying with this safety rule will be deducted half of their points.

34. The land the exercise is being run on is Private Land and is a working high country station. Care must be used when crossing over this land. **Under no circumstances at all** shall any member open or climb over any **DEER FENCING**. All normal stock gates must be left as they are found. Care must be taken to avoid damage to any property. Please refer to the exercise map for OUT of BOUNDS areas, please respect the privacy and cooperation of all those who live near this exercise area.
35. The only permissible method of travel for exercise participants during the exercise is by foot. Participants should ensure that general travel between stations is on formed tracks.
36. Teams must stay together throughout the competition. All team members must be within a 100 metre radius of their team leader at all times.
37. All teams must report to the Registration Tent, once they have finished the exercise so they can be logged out. Teams must **ALSO** log out over the radio.
38. The word of all exercise officials, assessors and safety officers is final. No discussions will be entered into.

## Area Map



# **Invitation to Canterbury District Land SAREX**

## **To all Canterbury LandSAR groups**

The district land SAREX will be held on February 22nd and 23rd February 2020.

The exercise location will be at Arrowsmith Station, this at lake Heron, on Hakatere Heron Road,

The ICP will be in or near the Arrowsmith Station shearing shed (GR 1450859 5183223), directions from Mt Somers are, travel west on Ashburton Gorge Road for about 23 km, turn right at the junction of Hakatere Heron Road, travel for about 17km on Hakatere Heron Road, then arrive at Arrowsmith Station. (images at end of invitation).

The two day exercise will consist of Rogaining style format that will run for a 24 hour period. Most of the stations in the exercise will be based on the LandSAR field competencies, both operational and probationary. It is expected that all LandSAR groups in Canterbury will enter at least one team.

### **Arrival**

Teams should arrive by 0900 hrs on Saturday 22nd February 2020. Registration will take place at the ICP between 0900 and 1000 hrs. From 1000-1030 hrs teams will receive a briefing on the event including a safety briefing. The event is not suitable for people with injuries that restrict their mobility or endurance.

The event will start between 1030 and 1100hrs.

If teams want to arrive on the Friday the 21st, an area for tents and vehicles will be made available, however teams will have to provide their own food for Friday night/Saturday morning.

### **Teams**

All teams consist of 3 or 4 people with a nominated team leader. Four people teams are preferred because if someone has to leave a team the remainder can still continue and complete the exercise (3 must finish). All team members must fully complete the registration process.

The exercise will finish 24 hours after it starts on Sunday and will be followed by a BBQ lunch (supplied) and a quick debrief. Participants should be free to leave by 1300 to 1400hrs.

### **Equipment**

Teams must bring all equipment they need, and must carry it with them for the duration of the exercise, including radios. HF radios will be available for teams. 24 hour ration packs will be supplied (Back Country) 1 per participant. Participants can bring their own food if they prefer. The LandSAR field guide: <https://www.landsar.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/public/LandSAR-Field-Guide-2010.pdf>

It provides a good indication of personal and team equipment that should be carried.

### **Rules**

A detailed list of rules will be included in the competition pack supplied at registration on the Saturday morning. Teams will be briefed on these rules. Non-compliance with the rules may lead to points being deducted. A breach of safety rules could lead to disqualification.

There is a compulsory rest period of 6 hours, this can be taken at any location/time and must be continuous, and there is no requirement for a non-completing driver, but if for any reason a driver feels incapable of driving their vehicle home due to fatigue, alternative arrangements will be made. The safety Officer or exercise staff must be made aware.

### **Assessment**

All tasks within the exercise will be assessed and teams will not be told their scores, but if time permits may be given some feedback following the task. Scores will be advised at the debriefing and team leaders will be sent a detailed feedback sheet from each station in the week following the exercise.

### **Management**

Management personnel will be required to coordinate the exercise and assist with the running of some stations. Anyone who wants to assist with the coordination and management of the exercise should notify the Police SAR Coordinator (Phil Simmonds) well before the exercise.

### **Teams attending**

There is no requirement to give of the names or details of participants, however can groups please let me know (Phil Simmonds) of the number of teams they plan to enter by **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020**.

### **Training prior to event**

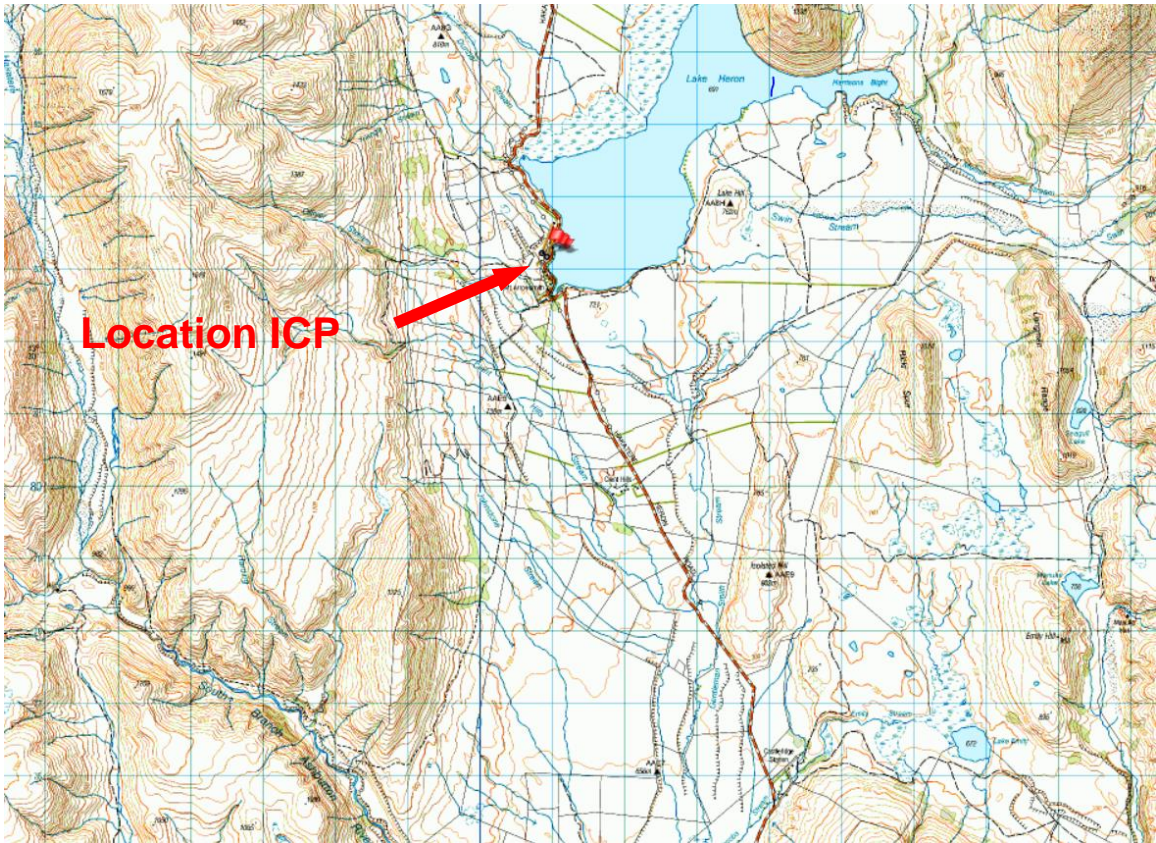
The field competencies provide a good guide on the nature of the tasks in the SAREX. In the lead up to the event it would be a good idea to focus training on those competencies. No further information on the nature of the tasks in the exercise will be provided before to the briefing on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Not all the stations will be totally SAR related. It will be similar to the SAR Ex held in Hakatere 3 years ago, with a number of changes from suggestions that came out of the debrief.

The event should prove challenging, both mentally and physically, but should be a lot of fun for those teams participating. Everything will be achievable and there is nothing in the exercise that is any harder than the competencies selected.

We hope to see you there.

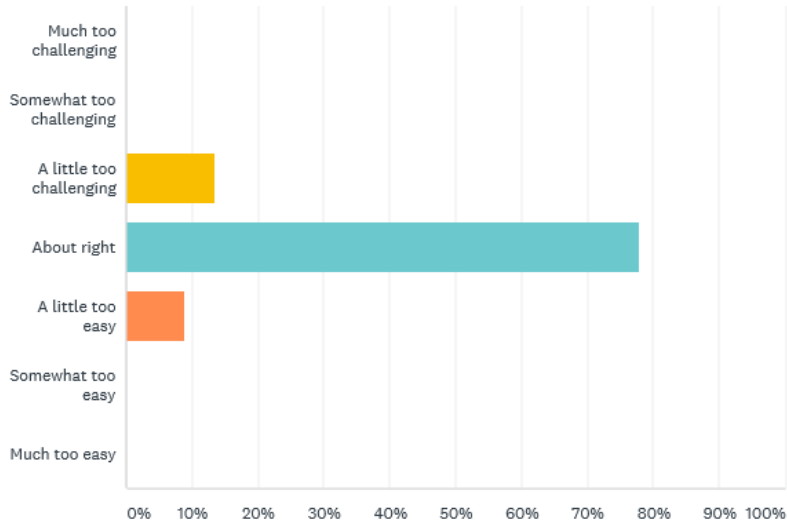
Phil Simmonds  
SAR Coordinator





## Was the SAR EX course too challenging, too easy, or about right?

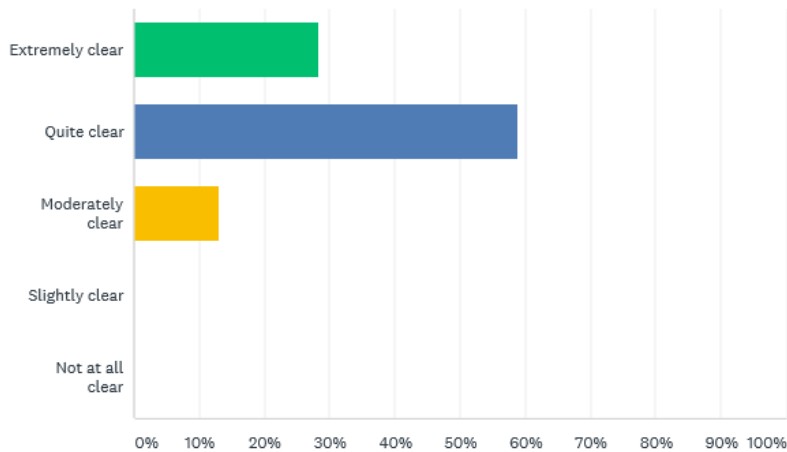
Answered: 45 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Much too challenging	0.00%	0
▼ Somewhat too challenging	0.00%	0
▼ A little too challenging	13.33%	6
▼ About right	77.78%	35
▼ A little too easy	8.89%	4
▼ Somewhat too easy	0.00%	0
▼ Much too easy	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>45</b>

## How clear were the objectives of the SAR EX?

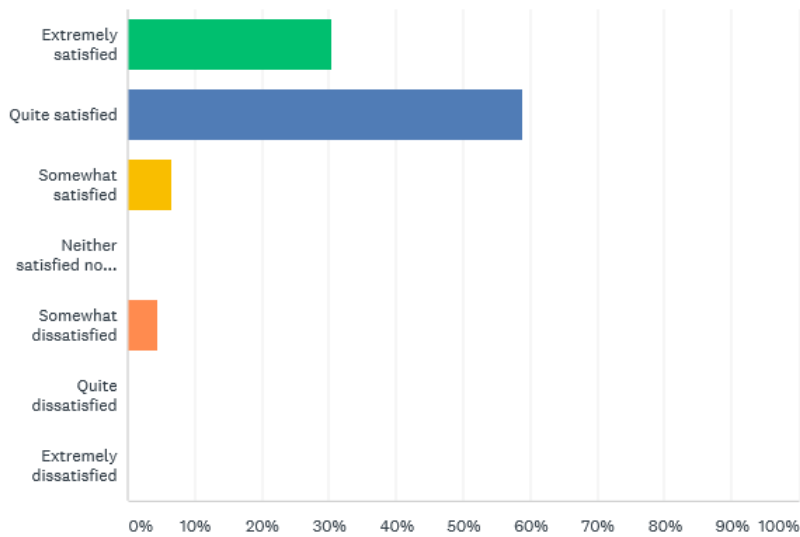
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Extremely clear	28.26%	13
▼ Quite clear	58.70%	27
▼ Moderately clear	13.04%	6
▼ Slightly clear	0.00%	0
▼ Not at all clear	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>46</b>

## Overall, were you satisfied with this event, dissatisfied with this event, or neither satisfied nor dissatisfied?

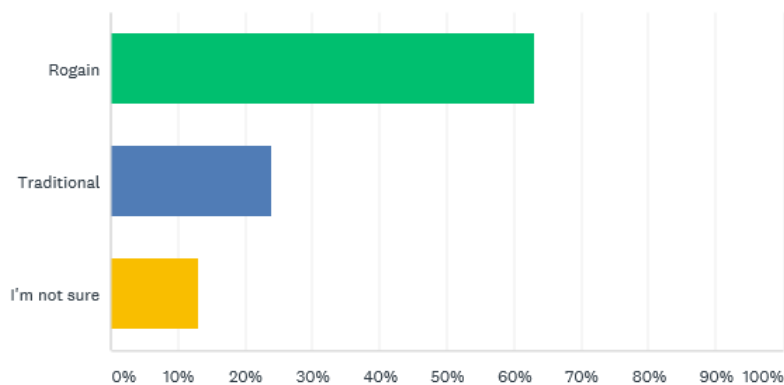
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ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely satisfied	30.43%	14
Quite satisfied	58.70%	27
Somewhat satisfied	6.52%	3
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	0.00%	0
Somewhat dissatisfied	4.35%	2
Quite dissatisfied	0.00%	0
Extremely dissatisfied	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>46</b>

## For next year would you like to see another Rogain style SAR Ex, or a traditional style SAR Ex

Answered: 46 Skipped: 0

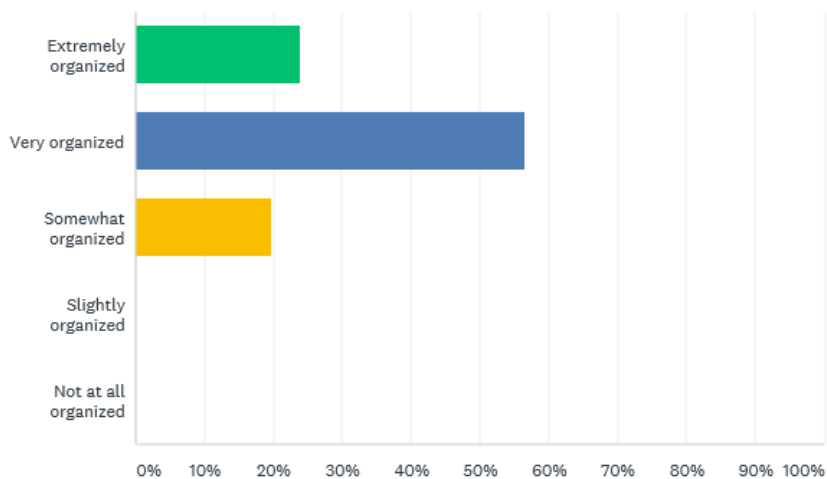


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rogain	63.04%	29
Traditional	23.91%	11
I'm not sure	13.04%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>46</b>



## How organized was the SAR EX event?

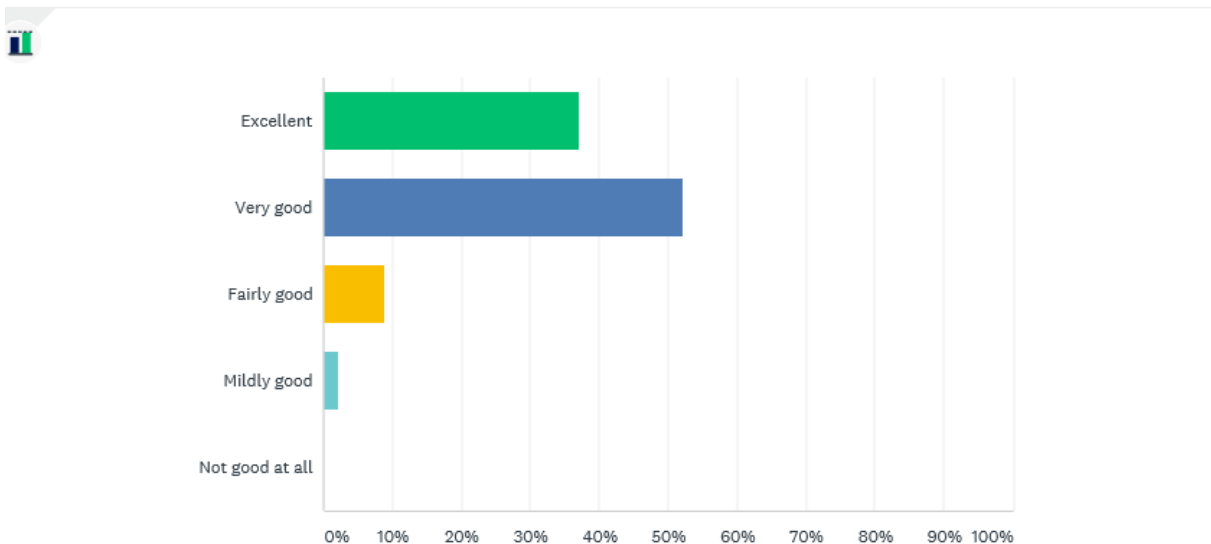
Answered: 46 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Extremely organized	23.91% 11
Very organized	56.52% 26
Somewhat organized	19.57% 9
Slightly organized	0.00% 0
Not at all organized	0.00% 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>

## Overall, how would you rate the Rogain SAR EX?

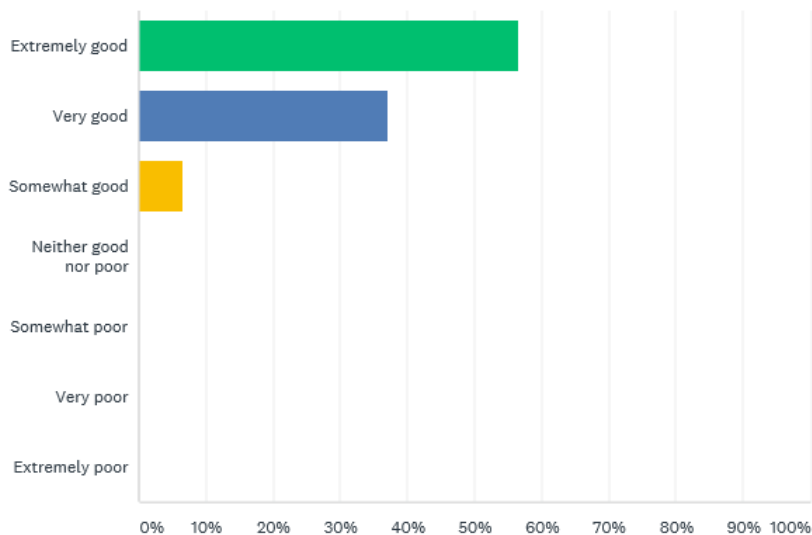
Answered: 46 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Excellent	36.96% 17
Very good	52.17% 24
Fairly good	8.70% 4
Mildly good	2.17% 1
Not good at all	0.00% 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>

## How would you rate the venue/location?

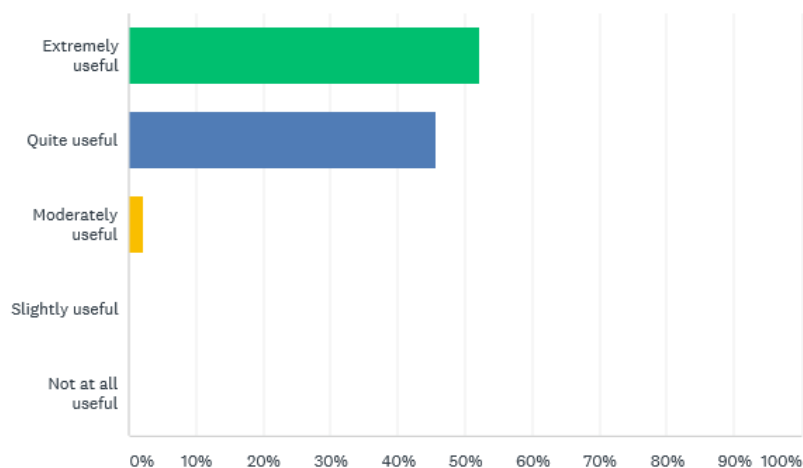
Answered: 46 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely good	56.52%	26
Very good	36.96%	17
Somewhat good	6.52%	3
Neither good nor poor	0.00%	0
Somewhat poor	0.00%	0
Very poor	0.00%	0
Extremely poor	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>46</b>

## How useful for SAR EX training do you think is this style of event?

Answered: 46 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely useful	52.17%	24
Quite useful	45.65%	21
Moderately useful	2.17%	1
Slightly useful	0.00%	0
Not at all useful	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>46</b>



## What changes, additions or suggestions would you make to any of the SAR EX stations?

It took a little bit of working out for Coms to getting their booking systems working, sometimes booking into a station was challenging as coms would confirm a booking and then change this later. However I imagine they were using a data base similar to what may be used on a real callout? Next time that could be explained to the teams before they leave, this would help avoid any angst in the groups

Can you pick a dry weekend next time, maybe just a little bit of drizzle

Suggest people who are actors playing a role not wear Sar vests etc....so it is clear they are not assessors....but are part of the scenario. This happened at 1st aid.

If a fast team arrives at a station and another team had booked but didnt make it in time, then the fast team should get priority on being able to do that station.

If doing the HR radio again, do it closer or at the medical, as it affects the course that people take and if there is atmospheric difficulty, the station handlers can take the "radio briefing" at the medical station. that or have it in coverage for the hand held radios so the report can be done over that?

We didn't get to them all, but can't think of anything I would change

When the SAR EX stations pass numerical positions, that they slow down and let us write them down, before we repeat them back to them.

Locations being consistent throughout the whole competition. Moving them after teams have already visited them is unfair to teams who planned around them in the original locations

Good being based on competency skills

Some assessments were very subjective from the assessors which is usually the case even when actions are straight from the textbook. The time limit meant things had to be done quickly which were penalised but that cant be helped

make the start / finish in the middle of all station , make it less congested at the start to get book in on a station (maybe start at different station)

Don't make too many rules, e.g. must do 1st aid before HF

the nav points should be more increased to promote movement skills

The booking system could use a rework. Maybe start teams in different locations instead. Not sure how that would work though.

Nothing! By far the team building was the best,

I'm not sure if the weather precluded effective use of the HF radio, but by the time we got to the station to use it we didn't have any success. Not sure how common this was. In future, may be worth testing to confirm that HF radio can be used successfully from station location. If attending the first aid station wasn't a prerequisite for attending the HF station, that would have been desirable. With 13 teams, scheduling seemed to be an issue. Having additional channels of communications for radios would have been smart to limit the traffic on a single channel. Our team requests were often confused in the early stages of the exercise due to the high level of traffic."

Wasnt to keen in the booking system

Rogaine , make it a proper rogaine with flags to get people to use map only and not rely on GPS

Difficult to answer as I was running a station and not aware of what was at the other stations

Better gazebos, with sides, for the organisers. With the weather we have, it is worth it. They were miserable"

IMT - Better booking system

A running theme between all the stations so that the scenarios all relate to each other. Have the stands a little closer to each other. Make it easier to book stations. Don't have stations you have to complete before doing another. We want teams to complete as many as they can, not put them off."

better weather

## Do you have any suggestions, or additions we should consider for this style of SAR EX?

Answered 22

Skipped 24

Have the stations deliver some training every second year.

No it was well organised

Thanks for inviting Coastguard to run a station, team had a great weekend and got a lot out of it

perhaps one with no gps? would require more map and compass work.

Consider having multiple radio channels feed back to the IMT as the amount of information transmitting back and forwards across the 1 channel was very hectic and did cause several mix ups in bookings for stations. As a example say you have 16 teams, utilize 4 radio channels with 4 teams per channel. This would simplify the radio network especially in the beginning when everyone was trying to book their stations over a short space of time.

As part of the IMT possible some earlier involvement in the set up/structure management. I think it's important to alternate traditional and Rogain style events.

This was my first time at an Exercise like this in a few years, it ran quite well, given the past. I personally think that us folks in the BUS, should have been annotated as AREC Base, as there was some confusion as to the actual Search Base (in the Wool-Shed) and us.

Points loss for breaking rules, ie out of bounds

Have a better booking system, maybe spread the teams around the stations at the start, have more navigation targets, on the whole very enjoyable

Maybe run more radio channels to the base. Due to the fact we were confirmed a location time after radioing in 3 times then half an hour later were denied it which left us very confused and that can change the whole dynamic of our attack plan for the weekend.

Allowing shelter in farmshed was great, we had already tested ourselves against the weather and if it were a real

If something seems a little off, you can change any sentiment to one that's more accurate

better shelter at all stations

regains are a great way to test people leadership and equipment

Weather.

Was my first but enjoyed it. Was more challenging than expected. Which was a good thing

The comms needed to be a little better as they were always double booking teams

Clear instructions on what to carry. If checked only the compulsory items.

More organized pack checks. Not last minute. Clearer instructions around needing to do First aid before HF. Was unclear.

From the perspective of a person running the station the fact that teams didn't have to go to all stations led to a rush on the second day and a very quiet first day if there was some way of staggering the teams throughout the whole period it would be good.

Its been suggested that a scenario should run between all stands so that over the course of the event the teams are working towards solving a greater problem

Have it in an area that has a beach, river mouth, forest area. Change it up a bit from the norm.

based on competencies is good

## Do you have any other comments about the Rogain SAR EX?

Answered: 28

Skipped: 18

Showing 28 responses

There is some very skilled people both in the police and lsar , that could pass on some skills to members, maybe every second year its a teaching , learning rogain style.

As a newbie, found all of the station debriefs really helpful and a brilliant learning tool.

What I liked about this event is it really allowed groups to test each aspect of the SAR training manual. Excellent. One recommendation-if there are prizes, there should either be only prizes for a few groups or enough for all-I felt that was the one flaw for the weekend. The last groups did not recieve anything as it wasnt clear if each person should grab something or not. It doesnt work to get one prize per group either! Tricky but needs a bit of work! Otherwise EXCELLENT weekend-well organised! Cheers

Could we have port a loos and accessible water source at base please and more loos out at stations. . Not good to be fouling farmers paddocks....no other choice really in some places.

Good weekend, bloody wet

Good work!

It was my first rogaine style event so was hard to make comparisons

It didn't help (or it did help) the fact that a large southerly came through the night of the Exercise.

Booking system for stations and coms needs polishing

What a big effort to put this on, well done learnt so much, even with the weather

Everything was great just the comms issue. I could imagine it was a headache for them in the comms bus and they did a great job overall but maybe just something to consider.

prefer either rogain or cold case style

you can't control the weather but could of planned better for bad weather

a little off, you can change any sentiment to one that's more accurate

I'm a probational member and found this an incredibly valuable experience! Thank you

Even with the weather it was great thx!

The Rogain is great but I also like the switching in a Cold Case style search occasionally. The Rogain is a great way to put a whole set of different skills to the test.

Good event, well run but maybe better weather next time?

Would love to see the photos that were taken!

It was well thought out event, and I appreciated being able to experience a range of different skills at the stations (esp. as a probational SAR member).

As a first time participant it was a great learning curve for the team ..

As a volunteer helping at a station I'm not sure

SARTrack really buggered up the organisation. I know you want to implement it, but the old paper and whiteboard go pretty well. And they dont take processing time

Great weekend, well done to the organisers

Worthwhile

Have a some sort of cover (tent) set up at stations so volunteers can get out of the rain/sun to regroup, cook a meal, have a cuppa. Volunteers should be looked after.

The alternating between the Rogaine and traditional style SAREX each year is a good mix. It would be good if the 2021 SAREX is the traditional style SAREX (or cold case)

good stuff